Appl. No. 09/944,244 Amd. Dated December 26, 2003 Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 17 and which continues to page 11, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Details of the pump generation and distribution scheme will now be explained with reference to Fig. 1. A pump 120 outputs 610 mW at 1500 nm. A pump 122 generates pump energy at 1470 nm. For fiber spool 102, a WDM multiplexer 124 multiplexes two pump sources together for injection into spool 102 via circulator 108. All of the output of pump 120 is injected into fiber spool 102. The output of pump 122 passes through a splitter 124 125 and a variable attenuator 126 before reaching WDM multiplexer 124. Variable attenuator 126 is used to adjust the 1470 nm pump power for dispersion compensating fiber spool 102 to be 660 mW even though the actual power output of pump 122 may vary depending on the desired pump power for dispersion compensating fiber spool 104.